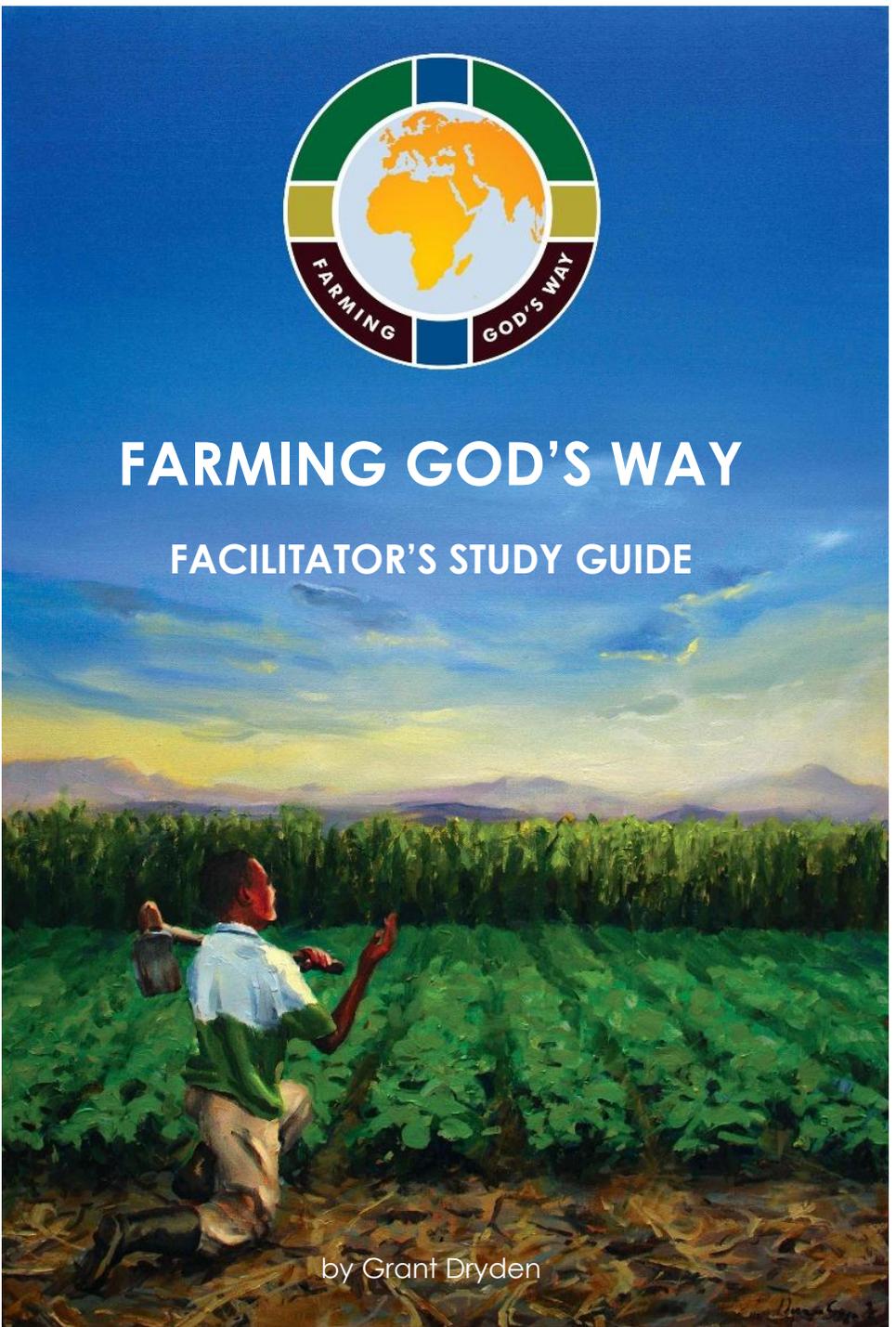




FARMING GOD'S WAY

FACILITATOR'S STUDY GUIDE



by Grant Dryden

Farming God's Way

Farming God's Way is a resource given to the wider body of Christ, to serve the poor and deliver them from the yoke of poverty.

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Questions	1
101 Overview	2
103 History	2
201 Biblical Key – Acknowledge God & God Alone	3
202 Biblical Key – You are the Temple of the Living God	4
203 Biblical Key – Understanding God's All Sufficiency	5
204 Biblical Key – What You Sow You Will Reap	5
205 Biblical Key – Bring in the Tithes and Offerings to God	6
206 Biblical Key – Stake Your Claim	7
301 Technology - Sequence	8
302 Technology - 20 Reasons Why	10
400 Management	11
501 Extension	12
Case Studies	14
1. Case Study - Malawi Mission School	14
2. Case Study - Lesotho Pastor	15
3. Case Study - Zimbabwe Implementing NGO	16
Practical	17
1. Journal	18
2. Photographs	18
3. Experiences	18

Introduction

This Facilitator's Study Guide has been compiled to assist in the Farming God's Way resources being utilised more effectively through group discussions, questions & answers, examinations and practical assignments. The Trainer's reference Guide & DVD series contains all of the content necessary to answer these questions, case studies and information necessary to fulfil the practical assignments.

This Study Guide includes

1. Questions
2. Case Studies
3. Practical Assignments

Questions

Ideally the DVD series should be conducted over a 3 day period as suggested at the end of the "DVD series manual". The discussion component really helps learners to digest and appropriate the material so that it is not just a monologue but an interactive learning medium. The subsections of questions, based on the chapter menu of the DVD series, will assist you in being able to ask the pointed questions which will bring attention to essential concepts whilst encouraging dialogue and interactive learning. After watching the respective DVD module, use these questions in creative ways to enhance the learning experience, such as in a whole group; or in small groups or as written tests.

101 Overview

1. Who first practised Farming God's Way? (2)
2. Jesus said "I only do what I see My Father in heaven doing." Explain why this is an establishing value in Farming God's Way. (2)
3. List the three spheres of influence of Farming God's Way. (1)
4. Why is it so imperative that the biblical teachings not be left out of an implementation of Farming God's Way? (3)
5. Who is the target audience of this message of hope? (1)
6. Why do you think that God motivates us to serve the poor so many times throughout the scriptures? (5)

103 History

1. What significant lessons did Mr Brian Oldreive learn through losing his first farm after stopping growing tobacco? (2)
2. What was the circumstance that caused him to try what God had revealed to him in the forest? (3)
3. Why did Brian decide to use hand hoes when he had machinery available? (2)

4. Why do you think Hinton could make a profit in its first year, when Brian was only growing 2 ha of 1000 ha Farming God's Way? (2)
5. What were the reasons why the first plots they planted amongst the poor failed? (5)

201 Biblical Key – Acknowledge God & God Alone

1. Is ancestral worship a part of your culture in any way? (1)
2. Have you ever engaged in any form of witchcraft or ancestral worship practise? If so what? (1)
3. Do you feel that it is permissible, based on the scriptural references, to practise both Christianity and the cultural norms of ancestral worship and witchcraft? (3)
4. What role does repentance play in reinstating God's blessing on the land? (3)
5. What role does fear have in preventing communities from giving up their traditional religious beliefs? (3)
6. How is "walking in all of God's ways" linked to the technology of farming practise? (3)
7. What is the condition to walking in the promise of God's redemptive plan for the land in Deuteronomy 7:12? (1)

8. What action can you take to appropriate this for your farmlands and community? (3)

202 Biblical Key – You are the Temple of the Living God

1. Why does the author take such great lengths to establish the detail of the temple built by Solomon? (3)
2. What does the ruination of the temple context have to do with my life? (2)
3. Have you ever asked the question “Why...?” of the Lord? (1)
4. What is God's response to the question – “Why?” in Haggai 1? (1)
5. On whom does the responsibility rest for the solution to our crisis? (1)
6. What is the author's analogy to Cain's judgement in the modern world? (3)
7. If a biblically based sexual responsibility was taken by all members of society what would be the outcome in 20 years' time? (3)
8. What is the benefit of farming in God's ways when drought incidence occurs? (3)

203 Biblical Key – Understanding God’s All Sufficiency

1. Describe an example of the dependency syndrome that you have observed in your community? (3)
2. Memorise 2 Corinthians 9:8 (1)
3. Why did God ask Moses what he had in his hand? (2)
4. What significance does this statement have in breaking the dependency syndrome? (3)
5. List an area in which God's All Sufficiency, is not all sufficient and consider an alternative to what you feel is lacking. (2)
6. How, could the principle of walking in God's All Sufficiency, revolutionise the example you gave of the dependency syndrome in your community? (3)
7. List the three organic inputs that are freely available in God's all sufficiency. (1)

204 Biblical Key – What You Sow You Will Reap

1. Write down two scriptures that use both “sowing and giving” with the same end result of increase. (2)
2. List four adjectives to explain how we should sow. (4)
3. In Mozambique the author encountered an audience who responded to the question on what they give/sow in

to the soil, “We sow nothing because we have got nothing”. Discuss this response in the light of Hosea 4:6. (3)

4. Farmer ‘Joe’ implemented Farming God's Way and in his first year did exceptionally well harvesting 8 times more than he had ever done before. The next year he decided he had enough food to get through another year and decided not to sow at all. He left his field untended and it was a jungle of weeds at the start of year three. Explain the mindset of why Joe never planted? (3)
5. What are the consequences of Joe not sowing this year and what will they be in year three. (3)
6. In Benin anthills are seen as a place where evil spirits dwell. How could this outlook hinder sowing by the poorest of the poor in the light of 2 Corinthians 4:4? (3)

205 Biblical Key – Bring in the Tithes and Offerings to God

1. Do you practise the giving of tithes and offerings? (1)
2. What percentage of your local church tithe? (1)
3. Are your leadership involved in empowering the church to create wealth? (1)
4. Discuss the three major benefits of bringing in the tithes, from an agricultural perspective. (3)
5. Elaborate on the potential knock on effect that the tithes could have in transforming communities from the bottom up. (5)

206 Biblical Key – Stake Your Claim

1. Memorise 2 Chronicles 7:14 (1)
2. Describe how to physically stake out a field in detail.
(5)
3. Which is the more important unit for measuring out your field - area or hole numbers? (2)
4. Why do witchdoctors sprinkle blood or fetishes on the land surface? (2)
5. Why should we actively walk our fields and pray, isn't it enough to pray when at home or in church? (3)
6. Is a prayer of repentance for past bloodshed necessary? (3)
7. Who was the patriarch that experienced God's judgement through famine because of innocent bloodshed he had not even been involved with? (3)
8. In your view is a prayer of repentance and dedication to the Lord, over your fields significant and if so why? (5)

301 Technology - Sequence

1. What is a Well Watered Garden? (3)
2. List 5 characteristics of a good well watered garden. (5)
3. Describe how to make a teren rope. (5)
4. List the measurements of:
 - a. In Row spacing = (1)
 - b. Row interval = (1)
 - c. Hole depth if using organic inputs = (1)
 - d. Hole depth if using inorganic/chemical fertiliser = (1)
 - e. Hole width = (1)
 - f. Hole length organic = and inorganic = (1)
5. Available inputs should determine your land area prepared. Farmers need 156 *50kg bags of manure per hectare when applying 350ml per planting station. So if you have just 100 bags of manure how many hectares should you prepare? (1)
6. Explain the land preparations when planting in virgin ground for the first time? (5)
7. Placing permanent pegs at the topside of our fields helps in establishing the principle of being able to plant in the same holes year by year. List 5 reasons why we should plant in the same holes each year. (5)
8. List 3 reasons why 1/3rd of our fields should be grown with a rotation crop. (3)
9. Should row crops such as beans, soya, sorghum etc be planted in planting stations? (2)

10. What alternative is there to using lime to correct acid soils? (1)
11. List the 4 inputs described. Give 2 reasons why it is important to cover all of them with a 3cm soil separation layer. (3)
12. List 2 basal fertiliser types in your region. Explain why basal fertilisers should not be used as topdressings. (3)
13. How many seeds should be planted per planting station? (1)
14. Can God's blanket be placed over maize planting stations after planting? (1)
15. List crops that should preferably not have God's blanket directly over the seeds planted? (2)
16. How much of God's Blanket should there be in the rows? (2)
17. Weeding should be done at 1 inch stage not at 1 foot. Why is this important? (3)
18. Why bother planting 3 seeds per planting station and thinning back to just 2. (5)
19. At which height for maize should thinning be done? (1)
20. Top dressing is ideally done twice using CAN/LAN/Urea. When and how should this be done? (3)
21. Explain why a last weeding at senescence/leaf die back is important in relation to the canopy cover. (2)

22. What causes cobs to fill only partly with seeds instead of filling all the way to the tip of the cob? (3)
23. How does postharvest stalk lodging help in controlling stalk borer? (3)

302 Technology - 20 Reasons Why

1. List the 3 major technology keys of Farming God's Way. (1)
2. What is the range of current estimates of erosion in Africa? (1)
3. List 3 types of compaction that result from ploughing & having none of "God's blanket"? (3)
4. The experiment at the Cedara research station showed losing 90% of the water applied & 28,5 tons of soil lost in erosion. Explain why this is unfaithfulness. (3)
5. Rain water is said to be the most limiting factor to yield in the continent. Explain how we can increase our rain water infiltration & preservation. (5)
6. How is God's blanket effective in weed control? (3)
7. What is the significance of the soft, unploughed field soil clod not breaking down in the water glass for on farm benefit? (3)
8. Why does ploughing result in soil colour change from dark to light? (2)
9. Can this be reversed? (3)

10. A living soil is a healthy soil. How does Farming God's Way encourage soil life? (5)
11. Besides the obvious proven yield improvements, list 3 other ways that Farming God's Way increases profitability. (3)
12. In year 5 Dixon had a 30 bag yield in a drought where his neighbour got just 1.5 bags. What do you think allowed him this drought tolerance? (2)

400 Management

1. List the 3 management keys of Farming God's Way. (1)
2. Define sustainable profitability. (1)
3. How does Farming God's Way give the sustainable elements to this objective? (3)
4. How does Farming God's Way give the profitable element to this objective? (3)
5. List 5 things in God's creation that show His character attribute of being "on time". (5)
6. If you are living in Zimbabwe on a 2 hectare family farm and for many reasons, can only plant on the 27th December. What is your potential yield loss due to planting late? If the maize price is 200 USD per ton how much money has your farm business lost? (2)
7. Explain why waiting for weeds to get to 1 foot tall is costly to the farmer. (3)

8. A teren rope is a simple measuring rope. How can this simple tool help us make a profit? (2)
9. What does "to high standards" with God's blanket mean to you? (2)
10. If you only have a little amount of God's blanket, what should you do? (1)
11. Give an example of when Jesus displayed the character attribute of minimal wastage. (2)
12. How can Farming God's Way help farmers to use the land they have and hereby prevent further deforestation? (2)
13. Give 5 examples of wastage because of bad agricultural practise by farmers in your area. (5)
14. If you lose 30 tons or 2.5 mm of topsoil a year per hectare, how many tons of topsoil will you have lost in 2 generations or 60 years? (1)

501 Extension

1. Why is it important to commit to 5/6 years of training of Farming God's Way in communities? (3)
2. What role should the man of peace fulfil? (3)
3. The training in communities gets done before the rains. Why is this important from a community perspective? (3)

4. Giving inputs to communities is a noble cause yet it has some disturbing consequences. Discuss this in light of your own community experience. (5)
5. Are input handouts necessary for communities to adopt Farming God's Way? (3)
6. What prayer protection are you putting in place for your own extension of Farming God's Way? (3)

Case Studies

These case studies have been written to stimulate the learner to be able to interpret real life examples in context with the theory.

1. Case Study - Malawi Mission School

A mission school decided to implement Farming God's Way at their station over a 2 hectare area. They diligently prepared their planting stations, spread their left over crop residues over the whole area and placed 350 ml chicken manure in the holes. When the rains came, the staff members were too busy with visitors and other projects, finally planting on the 8th December. They topdressed once at 40cm tall with 2:3:2 on the down slope side of the plants. The total yield of 7 tons was good by their standards.

- a) List at least 5 techniques in error that caused an average yield by Farming God's Way standards. (5)
- b) Calculate how many kilograms they lost simply due to the planting date. (1)
- c) If the maize price was set at 250 USD/ton calculate the loss of income for the mission school? (1)
- d) What lesson can we learn from the "too busy to plant" case study? (3)

2. Case Study - Lesotho Pastor

A pastor who has been through several sessions of training in Farming God's Way told of his struggle with implementing the step by step procedure. Investigations revealed the following timeline:

In September immediately after the training was completed he went out and began preparing the 10m*10m area. He planted at the end of September and a few days later sprayed the whole garden with roundup to kill the weeds. When the plants were 30cm tall he gathered manure from the kraal and did his first fertilisation by broadcasting the manure. In February his garden was about 1,5m tall with weeds up to 50cm tall throughout. The plants were pale green with a lot of purpling on the stems and leaves. The stand was uneven and the yield was very poor.

- a) Identify at least 5 key points which caused this garden to fail. (5)
- b) Associate each of these key points to one or more of the management keys. (5)
- c) What is the significance of the relationship between yield and the management teachings? (2)
- d) What impact will this model garden have on the community adoption of Farming God's Way? (3)

3. Case Study - Zimbabwe Implementing NGO

An implementer of Farming God's Way felt that the best way to get community adoption was through the provision of open pollinated variety seed and fertiliser to farmers on their program. This would give them a "hand up" and let them get their feet on the ground so that they could do it on their own.

First steps would be to wean them off the seed, then later off the fertiliser and then finally off all training and evaluations. However, after 7 years of this model the farmers were still getting inputs and not sustainable.

- a) Why do you think the farmers would not store the open pollinated variety seed for next season? (2)
- b) Why do you think the farmers would not collect manure or make compost instead of using fertiliser? (2)
- c) What is the name of the syndrome that handouts perpetuate? (1)
- d) What key biblical principle do handouts conflict with? (1)
- e) Do you feel that handouts are beneficial to the poor in the long run? (3)

Practical

As a part of the Farming God's Way relational accreditation process, we encourage all learners to apply what has been taught practically. You cannot train somebody in something you have not had experience in yourself. This is a crucial part in developing your own story as well as the story of your students.

Planting a Well Watered Garden seems such a foolish thing to do especially for those living in the cities. However this is where you will learn the necessary skills & gain sufficient experience in order to be able to train others. This first Well Watered Garden is planted so that you can gain personal experience. Therefore, plant your Well Watered Garden at the correct time for your region's optimal planting date (see Chapter 10.1; 17.4-5 of the Trainers Reference Guide). This is not the case when planting Well Watered Gardens for Training communities as these get implemented well before the rains to give enough lead time for community adoption.

Submit your practical assignments to your regional Farming God's Way overseer or the accredited trainer mentoring you.

1. Journal

Keep a log of every step in the Well Watered Garden sequence including the date & time taken to accomplish the task & then the task name.

Example: 10/11/2009; 3 hours - Digging planting stations

2. Photographs

Ensure that each photo does not exceed 250kb in size.

Take photos at the following steps in the sequence:

- Planting stations on completion
- Close up of a single planting station showing inputs
- Completed garden with God's blanket in place
- Crop at 30cm after thinning & topdressing
- Student with crop at maturity

3. Experiences

What mistakes did you make and how should they have been done?

What challenges did you encounter?